

show what a fund of new materials for the study of one species is afforded by the *Natural History of British Butterflies*, and what is true of *L. boeticus* is equally true of the vast and comprehensive store of details Mr. Tutt has provided in every page of his unrivalled book.

### The generic name *Botys*, Latr.

By LOUIS B. PROUT, F.E.S.

We have long been threatened with a transference of the above name to the *Geometrides* (*vide* Moore, *Lep. Ceyl.*, iii., p. 304, footnote; Kirby, *Handb.*, v., p. 233; Meyrick, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1892, p. 78), and it became necessary for me, in the course of my researches, to investigate its history thoroughly. The original description reads as follows:—

*BOTYS*, Latr., "Hist. Nat.," iii., p. 414 (1802).—Quatres palpes distincts, dont deux plus petits, appliqués sur les autres. Antennes ciliées ou simples. Une trompe. Ailes horizontales ou légèrement inclinées, formant avec le corps un triangle presque isocèle. Pattes postérieures longues, toujours très-épineuses. Species cited—*erigatus* (= *angustalis*, Schiff.), *colonus* (= *sociella*, Linn.), *purpuraria* (? = *purpuralis*, Linn.), and *potamogata* (= *nymphæata*, Linn.).

The following is the further important bibliography briefly summarised:—

1803. Latr., "Dét. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.," vi., p. 471; cites same four species.

1804. Latr., *ibid.*, xxiv., p. 200; cites only *erigatus* and *purpuraria*.

1805. Latr., "Hist. Nat.," xiv., p. 250; cites *purpuraria* and *potamogata*. But on page 224 he has also *purpuraria* under *Phalaena* [= *Geometra*], so that he clearly does not know the species well.

1809. Latr., "Gen. Crust. et Ins.," iv., p. 229; gives 10 species, including *purpuraria*, *potamogata*, and (doubtfully—"congener videtur") *erigatus*, but not *colonus*; diagnoses the larva as "sexdecimpoda."

1810. Latr., "Consid. Gén.," p. 441; specifies *purpuraria*, Fb., and *potamogata*, Fb., as types of the genus.

1816. Latr., "Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.," iv., pp. 232-4; describes *potamogata* and others under *Botys*, and briefly alludes to "*purpuralis*, Linn.," etc., as further examples of the genus.

1816. Lam., "Hist. Nat.," iii., p. 556; cites *purpuraria* as type of genus.

1817. Latr., "Règne Anim.," iii., pp. 572-3; gives 8 species, including only *potamogata* of his original list.

1819. Sam., "Ent. Comp.," p. 255; cites only *purpuraria*.

1824. Zinck., "Ersch and Gruber," xii., p. 103; cites *purpuraria* and *potamogata* of Latreille's original species, but points out that the former cannot belong to the genus as characterised.

1825. Latr., "Fam. Nat.," p. 478; gives, under Section I of "Crambites," 4 genera, which are latinised in Berthold's translation, thus:—

1827. Berthold, "Latr. Nat. Fam.," p. 485; *Botys* (nom. nud.); *Hydrocampus* (nom. nud., except for citation of *potamogata* as type); *Aglossa* (nom. nud.); and *Ilithya* (nom. nud., except for citation of *colonus* as type).

1829. Latr., "Règne Anim.," nouv. ed., v., p. 418; describes only *urticata* and *verticalis* [*ruralis*] under *Botys*, adding other mere names, inclusive of "*purpuraria* of Fb.," in a footnote.

1829. Steph., "Cat. Brit. Ins.," ii., p. 164; restricts to *urticata*.

1830. Curt., "Brit. Ent.," vii., fol. 312; says the type is the Geometer, *Phalaena purpuraria*, Linn.

1831. Dup., "Hist. Nat.," viii., pt. 2, p. 10; gives type *urticalis*.

1834. Steph., "Ill. Haust.," iv., p. 46, footnote; criticises Curtis, stating that the type, as established by Latreille in 1802, is *erigatus* (= *angustalis*), and that "Mr. Curtis would have detected this had he followed the principles laid down by himself . . . by reading the characters instead of merely looking at the names of the species;" further states that *purpuraria* was given by Latreille through a *lapsus calami* for *purpuralis*.